

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security on the House Judiciary Committee, will spend this week in Congress at several events on Capitol Hill focusing on effective methods of preventing youth violence in America's communities.

**Today at 3:00 p.m.**, Congressman Scott will join his colleague, Congressman John Conyers, who is the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, and other experts for a briefing on predicting and preventing homicide and other violence. This briefing will be held in Room 2226 of the Rayburn House Office Building. For more information on this briefing, please [click here](#).

**On Wednesday, July 24, 2012**, the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security will hold a hearing at 10:00 a.m. on "Beyond the Streets: America's Evolving Gang Threat" in Room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building. For more information on this hearing, please [click here](#).

**Later on Wednesday**, Congressman Scott will join members of the Attorney General's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence and other members of Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Justice for a briefing on the issue, which will take place at 2:00 p.m. in Room 2237 of the Rayburn House Office Building. This Task Force was established by the Attorney General to address the rising epidemic of problems from children's exposure to violence.

Congressman Scott is a recognized leader in addressing youth violence. He has sponsored H.R. 2721, the Youth PROMISE Act, which has been endorsed by over 250 local and national organizations representing a broad array of children and youth-oriented specialties including juvenile justice, mental health, civil rights, education, youth work, legal services, and faith communities. Under the Youth PROMISE Act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will be able to develop a comprehensive plan to address youth violence through a coordinated prevention and intervention response. Representatives from local law enforcement, the school system, court services, social services, health and mental health providers, foster care providers, other community and faith-based organizations will form a council to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies. The plans can be funded up to four years. The act also enhances state and local law enforcement efforts regarding youth and gang violence. For more information on the Youth PROMISE Act, please visit: <http://bobbyscott.house.gov/ypa>.

"Addressing youth violence and reducing crime is not difficult if you use evidenced based approaches," said Congressman Scott. "During my more than 30 years of public service, I have learned that when it comes to crime policy, we have a choice - we can reduce crime or we can play politics. For far too long, Congress has chosen to play politics by enacting poll tested

"tough on crime" slogans and sound bites whose impacts range from a negligible reduction in crime to an actual increase in crime. As a result, the United States now has the highest incarceration rate of any nation in the world, a rate so high that the Pew Research Center has calculated that it not only wastes money, it is counterproductive in the fight against crime. All the credible research and evidence shows that a continuum of evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost. I hope to highlight this approach to addressing crime this week in briefings and hearings."

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